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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/710,982	08/16/2004	Makoto Izawa	22040-00037-US1	4981
30678 7590 06/27/2007 CONNOLLY BOVE LODGE & HUTZ LLP 1875 EYE STREET, N.W. SUITE 1100 WASHINGTON, DC 20036			EXAMINER MEDE, ESTEVE	
			ART UNIT 2137	PAPER NUMBER
			MAIL DATE 06/27/2007	DELIVERY MODE PAPER

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

10/710,982

Applicant(s)

IZAWA ET AL.

Examiner

Esteve Mede

Art Unit

2137

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 16 August 2004.
- 2a) ☐ This action is FINAL. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-8 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-8 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
- ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 - ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 - ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☒ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date 08/17/2004.
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____.
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application
- 6) ☐ Other: _____.

Claim Objections

1. Claim 1 is objected to because of the following informalities: in claim 1, line 8 the term "encrypting-based security between the terminal having the encrypting capability" should be --encrypting-based security between the terminal having the encrypting capability and/or the non-encrypting capability--; in claim 2, line 6 the term "andthe" should be --and the--. Appropriate correction is required.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

4. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

5. **Claims 1-8**, are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Funabe et al. (US 6,016,350) in view of Sokol et al. (2002/0073212 A1)

Regarding claims 1-3 and 5-8, Funabe discloses an encryption apparatus comprising; having an encrypting capability can be directly or indirectly connected (col. 6, lines 37-43; col. 7, lines 57-66; col. 8, lines 1-3); an encryption/decryption means for performing an encrypting process and a decrypting process on data to terminate encryption-based security between the terminal having encrypting capability (see abstract; col. 6, lines 51-60; col. 7, lines 57-66; col. 8, lines 1-3); and a LAN (the limitation of data passed through a

physical and a data link layer is an intrinsic property of a LAN, which operates on the physical and data link layer (col. 21, lines 10-20)).

However Funabe does not disclose a bridge means for allowing data, which has been received with one of the plurality of ports and then on which the encrypting or decrypting process has been performed, to be outputted as it is from another port without being performed any routing process. The general concept of having a bridge means for allowing data, which have been received from the ports on which encryption/decryption has been performed to be outputted without any routing of the data is well known in the art as illustrated by Sokol, which discloses a hub which allow data to be transferred without any routing of the data (para. 0029, lines 1-5; para. 0027, lines 1-10; para. 0034, lines 1-8). Therefore it would have been obvious for one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to modify Funabe to include the use of a hub (bridge) in order to transmit data without any routing of the process.

Regarding claim 4, Funabe discloses the encryption apparatus according to claim 3, further comprising setting information storage means for storing setting information for controlling the encrypting process and the decrypting process (col. 20, lines 19-51; figure 20 and 21 of the drawings; see figure 2-3 of the), wherein the encryption/decryption means controls the encrypting process and the decrypting process by comparing the setting information stored in the setting information storage means with header information of a data packet of the data received with one of the plurality of ports (see figure 2-3 of the drawings).

Conclusion

6. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Esteve Mede whose telephone number is 571-270-1594. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday thru Friday, 8:30-5:00 PM, EST.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Emmanuel Moise can be reached on 571-272-3865. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

Esteve Mede
em
06/04/2007


EMMANUEL L. MOISE
SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER

Art Unit: 2137